

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for monitoring the activity of an object at a remote location, the system comprising:

a consumer electronic appliance having a first input for receiving data indicative of a program and a second input for receiving data indicative of the activity of the object;

an activity sensor to be placed at the remote location, the activity sensor for sensing the activity of the object and transmitting data indicative of the activity to the second input of the consumer electronic appliance;

the consumer electronic appliance being operative in a first mode to enable a user to continuously monitor the activity of the object.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the consumer electronic appliance is operative in a second mode to enable the user to momentarily observe the activity of the object.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the consumer electronic appliance includes an activity detector that measures the activity of the object in the object data and, in a third mode of operation, automatically causes the consumer electronic appliance to present the activity of the object if the measured activity meets a predetermined activity threshold.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the consumer electronic appliance includes an activity detector that measures the activity of the object in the object data and, in a second mode of operation, automatically causes the consumer electronic appliance to present the activity of the object if the measured activity meets a predetermined activity threshold.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the consumer electronic appliance includes a video display device and the activity sensor includes a video camera.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the video display device includes a television receiver.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the consumer electronic appliance includes an audio reproduction device and the activity sensor includes an audio pickup device.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the audio reproduction device includes a stereophonic sound system and the audio pickup device includes a microphone.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the object is an infant.

10. A system for monitoring the activity of an object at a remote location, the system comprising:

a video display device having a first input for receiving video data indicative of a video program and a second input for receiving video data indicative of the activity of the object;

a video camera device to be placed at the remote location, the camera device for transmitting video data indicative of the object's activity to the second input of the video display device;

the video display device including a motion detector that measures the motion activity of the object in the object data and causes the display device to automatically display video of the object if the motion detector detects a predetermined threshold of activity time in the video data of the object.

11. A system for monitoring the activity of an object at a remote location, the system comprising:

a sound reproduction device having a first input for receiving audio data indicative of an audio program and a second input for receiving audio data indicative of the activity of the object;

an audio pickup device to be placed at the remote location, the audio pickup device transmitting audio data indicative of the activity of the object to the second input of the sound reproduction device;

the sound reproduction device including an audio detector that measures the sound activity in the object data and causes the sound reproduction device to automatically reproduce an audio of the object if the audio detector detects a predetermined threshold of sound volume in the audio data of the object.

12. A consumer electronic appliance for monitoring the activity of an object at a remote location, the appliance comprising:

a first input for receiving data indicative of a program; and
a second input for receiving data indicative of the activity of the object from
an activity sensor placed at the remote location that senses the activity of the object;
the appliance being operative in a first mode to enable a user to continuously
monitor the activity of the object.

13. The appliance according to claim 12, wherein the appliance is operative in a
second mode to enable the user to momentarily observe the activity of the object.

14. The appliance according to claim 13, further comprising an activity detector that
measures the activity of the object in the object data and, in a third mode of operation,
automatically causes the appliance to present the activity of the object if the measured activity
meets a predetermined activity threshold.

15. The appliance according to claim 12, further comprising an activity detector that
measures the activity of the object in the object data and, in a second mode of operation,
automatically causes the appliance to present the activity of the object if the measured activity
meets a predetermined activity threshold.

16. The appliance according to claim 12, wherein the appliance includes a video
display device.

17. The appliance according to claim 16, wherein the video display device includes a television receiver.

18. The appliance according to claim 12, wherein the appliance includes an audio reproduction device.

19. The appliance according to claim 18, wherein the audio reproduction device includes a stereophonic sound system.

20. The appliance according to claim 12, wherein the object is an infant.